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THE SITUATION.

The assassination of President Lincoln and the attempt to take the life of Secretary Seward and his sons, to cause the formation of the engrossing and melancholy subject of thought, feeling, conversation and action throughout the North. The murder of a Chief Magistrate being an unprecedented event in our history, of course the demonstration of feeling is such as has never before been manifested by the people, whose affection for their martyred President, estimation of their greatness, and terrible indignation over the foul act by which his death was produced are unmistakably shown in a nation spontaneously draping itself in the solemn weeds of mourning. In the various cities, towns and villages of the loyal States, in addition to the forcible language of respect for the departed Chief spoken by streets festooned in funeral garb, arrangements have been made by the different public bodies and associations for the observance of further appropriate ceremonies. In this city yesterday all the law courts which had not previously taken such action adjourned over till after the conclusion of the Presidential obsequies in Washington, which will take place to-morrow, and meetings of a number of our city institutions and organizations were held to take steps for the suitable observance of the occasion. At a meeting held in the Collector's office at the Custom House a letter was ordered to be addressed to Governor Fenton, requesting him to fix on to-morrow, instead of Thursday, as a day of humiliation and prayer. The proceedings of a number of assemblies, official and unofficial, together with sketches of the appearance of the metropolis, are given in our columns this morning.

The condition of Secretary Seward was better yesterday, and he appeared to be gradually improving. As Assistant Secretary Frederick Seward's case is also becoming more hopeful, and it is now thought that he may ultimately recover.

Evidence accumulates of there having been a regular conspiracy to assassinate Vice President Johnson and every member of the Cabinet. Many of the conspirators are known to the authorities, and as soon as it can prudently be done their names will be given to the public. We have from Washington the report of the arrest of Surratt, one of the supposed principals in the atrocious affair. Our despatches contain a large amount of interesting information relative to the arrangements for the funeral of President Lincoln and the proceedings of the authorities for the detection of the criminals and their confederates. Thirty thousand dollars reward have been offered for the arrest of Booth and Surratt.

It is said that the body of President Lincoln will pass through this city, en route to its last resting place at Springfield, Illinois.

The people of Canada are giving strong evidence of their esteem for our murdered President and their sympathy with us in our affliction. The flags on the public buildings in Montreal were placed at half-mast on Saturday, and on Sunday the assassination of Mr. Lincoln was alluded to in Bibles and affecting terms in all the churches of that city. In their towns throughout the province the manifestations have been of a like character.

The intelligence from General Sherman's army, though coming to the nation in the midst of its great grief, is of the most gratifying character. On the 12th inst. General Sherman had reached Smithfield, half way between Goldsboro and Raleigh, and had there halted, our Northern despatches inform us, for the purpose of receiving from the rebel General Johnston the surrender of his entire army, in accordance with instructions to the latter officer from General Lee. From Washington we learn that the government has been informed by General Sherman that all the arrangements for the surrender had been perfected, and that it would take place on the day following that on which he wrote. On the 12th inst. General Sherman announced the surrender of Lee to his troops in an official order, which concludes by telling them: "A little more labor, a little more toil on our part, and the great race is won, and our government stands regenerated after its four years of bloody war."

Our New President—The Man and the Occasion for a Short, Sharp and Decisive Victory.

The more we extend our research into the character, views, principles and purposes of Andrew Johnson, as developed and established in his long and active career as a public man, the more strongly are we impressed with the conviction that he is the man for the crisis. For the difficult, delicate and momentous trials through which the country has been safely carried during the last four years we have had a dispensation of Providence in the cautious, patient, gentle and forbearing Abraham Lincoln. But the great revolutionary ideas and issues with which he had to grapple are substantially settled. The policy of his successor, therefore, in reference to our domestic and foreign affairs, is substantially fixed. All that President Johnson has to do is to adhere to the established landmarks, and finish the work turned over into his hands.

In this view his earnest and energetic character admirably fits him for his new position. Andrew Johnson is a man of the type of Andrew Jackson—a man of earnest patriotism, decisive opinions and inflexible resolution. He is, too, like both Jackson and Lincoln, pre-eminently a man of the people—*Vox populi vox Dei*. Their voice to him is the voice of God. His principles, as their agent, are with him as sacred as the revelations of the New Testament. That admirable moral courage which enabled him in the outset of this war to set his face against the mass of his party leaders and followers in Tennessee, and to resist, in the teeth of the greatest temptations, personal sacrifices and dangers, the fiery whirlwind of secession, stamps him a man whose strength of will is equal to any emergency. It is to these conspicuous manifestations of his Jacksonian firmness and loyalty that he is indebted for his present elevation. Such a man, so rewarded, may be relied upon. We predict that he will presently appear a tower of strength to the republic.

What will be his policy? He has already fore-shadowed it. He will finish the work so nearly accomplished by his lamented predecessor. He will put down, if necessary, the remaining armed forces of the rebellion with the will of "Old Hickory," but to the repenting and submissive masses of the rebel army and people he will still show the charity of Honest Old Abe. As for Jeff. Davis and his ruling political confederates, the sooner they leave the country now the better it will be for them. The hint, as President of the United States, already thrown out by Andrew Johnson, should be accepted by them as a warning to be of

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Lastly, touching our foreign affairs, it will suffice, for the present, to say that Andrew Johnson is dyed in the wool as a believer in the Monroe doctrine. In short, we anticipate from him, in the reconstruction of the rebellious States and in the rectification of our foreign affairs, an administration which will make these reunited States the strongest, happiest and foremost nation of the world.

THE LAST OF THE GREAT ENGLISH ACTORS.—Mr. Charles Kean, the last of the great English actors, is now in this city on a passing visit to his American friends. After an extensive tour of a great portion of the globe, embracing in its range the golden lands of Australia and California, as well as the islands of the Antilles, he has once more bent his steps to the magnificent metropolis of the Western world. Like Rienzi, the Roman tribune, this distinguished man is the last of a noble race of actors whose triumphant fame has filled the land. Such another actor does not live at this day. His style is pure, chaste, finished and highly intellectual. To see him is to see at once the impersonation of perfect art and a true specimen of the most careful cultivation. In his acting we find nothing of the coarse, vulgar "black-hawk" style which "tears a passion to rags" and "uplifts the ears of groundlings"—a kind of acting that has unfortunately been coming too much into vogue of late. This, among many other reasons, is cause enough why Mr. Kean should be earnestly welcomed among us.

Of Mrs. Kean, who has gained laurels wherever she has gone, we may make the same remarks. The thousands of play-goers in this city who remember her will bear in mind her warm, impassioned and energetic style of acting, which speaks at once to the intellect as well as to the heart of her audience. She returns to us with more power than before—with a larger and richer store of pearls gathered from the depths of the histrionic sea. The opportunity afforded the public of seeing and hearing these accomplished artists is brief, but let all who can take advantage of it. As the last of the great illustrators of his profession in his own land, Charles Kean will necessarily attract great attention. With the close of his career the race of great English actors will have passed away. He will leave us to go to his place in Westminster Abbey—the sacred precincts reserved by his country for those who have distinguished themselves in the profession of arms or of art. To this republic, with its inexhaustible resources, is given the mission of hereafter producing the great interpreters of all scenic and dramatic art. And now that, for a brief period, we have the last of the English actors among us, let every one who can go to see him, feeling assured that he is the last link that binds us to a system now passing away.

THE FURNAL OF THE PRESIDENT.—A GENERAL DAY OF MOURNING.—Governor Fenton has fixed Thursday, the 20th inst., as a day for services "appropriate to a season of national bereavement," in consequence of the lamented death of our late President. This day, it will be remembered, had previously been named as a public festival for our numerous victories by land and sea; but the mournful event that has convulsed the whole country caused the Governor to alter his proclamation. We now have official intimation through Mr. Hunter, the acting Secretary of State, that Wednesday next (to-morrow) is selected for the funeral of the President, and is to be generally observed throughout the country. All churches and religious societies of every denomination are invited by the government to combine in the movements of honor and respect to the honored dead. It therefore seems proper that Governor Fenton should at once also fix Wednesday, instead of Thursday, as the day of general mourning, so that the two ceremonies should not clash one with the other. This can easily be accomplished by means of the telegraph, and we suggest that he do so at once. If not, the day of the funeral will be fully observed; the other will fall like a dead letter upon the public.

THE RIGHTS OF CITIZENS IN THE STREETS.—It is time that people should know whether the rights of railroad monopolies or the rights of citizens, who pay taxes to support the city government, are paramount in the streets. An incident occurred yesterday which we regard as a gross outrage on the part of a railroad employee and a member of the police force conjointly upon the privileges of our citizens. There is a railroad running through Ann street, the track of which verges closely on the curb in consequence of the narrowness of that thoroughfare. It is necessary sometimes for people doing business there to employ trucks and carts for various purposes. It happened that it was necessary for us to do so yesterday in carting off some papers from our Ann street entrance. While the cartman was thus employed the railroad car came along, and the conductor commanded the man to get off the track. The cartman replied that his truck would be loaded in a few moments and he would get out of the way, whereupon the conductor called a policeman

without loss of time. Secession assassins have drowned the voice of mercy in behalf of secession leaders in the universal public voice for justice, and for the protection of the nation in its appointed rulers.

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